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June 14, 2004

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: MM Docket No. 99-325

Dear Ms. Dortch:

As a donor to public radio and as a devoted listener to KQED-FM, I write to urge the Commission to support HD Radio and the use of Supplemental Audio Channels (multiplexing) with minimal regulatory constraints. Your support of this new technology will enable public stations like KQED to utilize this cost-effective technology to diversify their program offerings and to expand and improve their service to their communities.

As you know, we donors and volunteers who support public radio stations help stations generate the revenue necessary to fund the station's activities. The use of SAC technology for remunerative purposes will help us strengthen the station's ability to continue to serve our community better into the future. Using SAC is an affordable way for stations to expand the quality and quantity of local, regional, and national programming, especially when compared to the enormous cost of acquiring

additional frequencies. Because of these efficiencies, the resources conserved could be invested into programs that meet the needs of more listeners.

With your support, many public radio stations will be able to multiplex the digital audio signal so they can provide programs to specific audiences that are currently are underserved or not being served at all. For example, stations could provide their existing programs on the primary channel, and add additional services such as music programs on supplementary channels. Some stations might also provide language-specific programs serving populations of non-English speaking citizens.

Providing non-commercial educational stations with maximum flexibility to serve the needs and interests of listeners is mutually beneficial in that it also supports the FCC's goal of fostering and protecting educational public service programming. The use of supplemental audio is integral to public radio's public service mission and will help stations provide greater access to radio for all of the people in their communities.

Thank you for your consideration, and for your efforts to fully protect and support public radio stations and their community service mission.

Sincerely,

Roselyne C. Swig
Member, NPR Foundation Board
Donor & Listener, KQED-FM